

AFGHANI LEADER WAS A UNOCAL ADVISER

On February 8 in Islamabad, Pakistan, the US-favoured interim leader of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, spoke in favour of the much-discussed trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline, proposed by Unocal.

Not much of a surprise really, given that Karzai was previously a paid adviser to Unocal.

The Afghanistan interim leader said that he and Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf had agreed to revive a plan for a trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan.

"Both sides have agreed that the construction of this pipeline will be very beneficial for both countries as well as for the entire region," Karzai told a news conference after talks with General Musharraf.

A consortium led by US corporation Unocal had originally aimed to build the US\$1.9 billion, 1,400-kilometre (875-mile) pipeline to run from gas-rich Turkmenistan via northern Afghanistan. But in August 1998, Unocal halted development of the project after US forces fired missiles at guerrilla camps in Afghanistan in the wake of bomb attacks on two US embassies in Africa.

(Sources: *Le Monde*, December 13, 2001; *Reuters*, February 8, 2002; *Turan News Agency*, February 18, 2002)



STUDY LINKS FLUORIDATION TO BONE CANCER

The Government in the Irish Republic has been urged to investigate the link between bone cancer and fluoridated drinking water, after a study carried out at Boston University School of Public Health found that 40 per cent more people in the Republic contract osteosarcoma than in Northern Ireland.

Dr Don MacAuley, spokesman for Irish Dentists Opposing Fluoridation, said that while the Irish study did not conclusively link the cancer to fluoridation, it underscored the need for urgent research into the

health effects of adding 2,000 gallons of hydrofluosilicic acid to drinking water in the Republic.

The study utilised data from the Irish National Cancer Registry and its northern equivalent.

Dr Harry Comber, director of the National Cancer Registry, cautioned against drawing firm conclusions from the osteosarcoma research because the disease is relatively rare on both sides of the border.

Ireland is the only country in Europe to insist that drinking water be fluoridated.

(Source: *Dentistry*, February 7, 2002, <http://www.dentistry.co.uk>)

WEST ANTARCTIC ICE SHEET IS EXPANDING

Parts of the West Antarctic ice sheet are getting thicker rather than thinner, according to a study that casts doubt on one of the greatest fears surrounding global warming. Previous studies have suggested that the western ice sheet is unstable and could melt disastrously in a warmer world, causing sea levels to rise by as much as five metres.

However, an investigation by scientists who studied the shrinkage and expansion of ice using satellite radars has found that, rather than losing about 21 billion tons of ice a year, West Antarctica is accumulating nearly 27 billion tons.

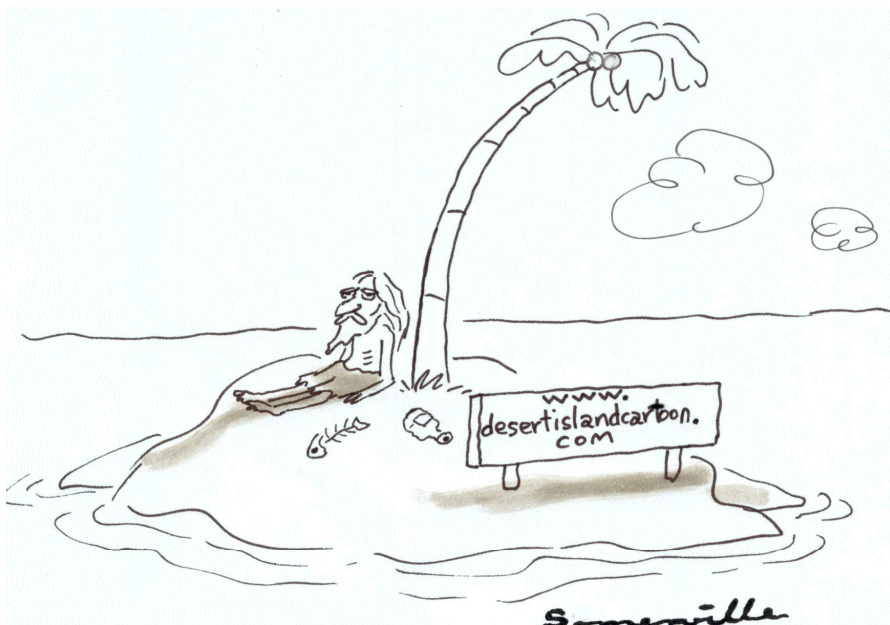
Ian Joughin, from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Slawek Tulaczyk, of the University of California Santa Cruz, believe their study is more accurate and extensive than previous work and could indicate a reversal of a 10,000-year trend in glacier shrinkage which began after the last ice age.

"The ice sheet has been retreating for the last few thousand years, but we think the end of this retreat has come," said Dr Joughin. "But I hesitate to say that we can stop worrying about it."

This latest study covers a limited area of land and the scientists point out that ice sheets in other regions, such as the Pine Island Glacier and the Thwaites Glacier, are thinning.

Dr Duncan Whingham, a glaciologist at University College London, said: "It's harder than ever to predict how this area of Antarctica is going to evolve."

(Source: *Independent*, January 29, 2002, <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/>)



REMOTE VIEWING SUCCESS

With all the claims made about remote viewing, it has been a sad fact that no remote viewers (in the civilian world) have ever been documented actually locating a missing person—until now.

Joe McMoneagle granted permission to publish details of some work he did recently for national television in Japan, under the supervision of Japanese law enforcement authorities.

Joe worked a number of targets "double blind" while being taped for Japanese TV. In the first session, he was given a blank envelope with the name of a target inside (a 48-year old woman who had been missing for 27 years).

Joe had done preliminary work on this target at his home in Virginia, prior to travelling to Japan for the videotaping. He was able to give authorities the exact location of the missing woman: the island, the city, the specific prefecture within the city. He described the apartment complex, the apartment building, picked the right floor and even directed authorities to a specific apartment. Japanese police and television crews were suitably impressed.

"They were very surprised to find her actually residing in it under her maiden name," explains Joe. "I think it woke the Japanese detective agency and police up. I don't think they ever expected me to find her—especially from Virginia, using only her name in a blank, sealed envelope."

A second target involved a missing man, whose name was also sealed in a blank envelope. Again, Joe was able to give authorities the city, prefecture and apartment complex where the man is now living. The apartment complex has 1,200 residences that are all identical, so police are still trying to find the exact one. But they have confirmed that the man cashed cheques in that area recently, and some of the local residents have identified him based on his picture.

McMoneagle has been videotaped 22 times for Japanese TV. He says 18 of those sessions were successful.

When giving permission to post this, McMoneagle cautioned: "I don't want to see people waving it around as extant proof of their own remote viewing capability. They can make their own tapes with someone's national television studio."

(Source: Rense site, <http://www.rense.com>, from Dick Allgire, Hawaii Remote Viewers Guild, March 2, 2002, <http://www.hrv.org>)

UNITED STATES THWARTS EUROPEAN GPS PLAN

Exasperated European officials say US pressure appears to have torpedoed a US\$3 billion project to build a European version of the US global positioning system (GPS), which uses signals from orbiting satellites to track geographical position to within 36 metres.

The proposed system, dubbed *Galileo*, was intended to give Europeans more autonomy, both industrially and militarily. That's no small concern, since the United States can selectively block access to GPS, as it did during the military campaigns in Afghanistan and in the Gulf War.

European plans to develop a rapid-reaction military force would also have become much more credible with their own GPS in military operations.

But US Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz sent a letter to all 15 European Union defence ministers last month, urging them to influence their governments *not* to proceed with *Galileo*.

Wolfowitz's rationale, according to Gilles Gantelet, spokesman for the European commissioner in charge of the project, is that the US Defense Department, which funds and operates GPS, plans to upgrade the system's capabilities and use more frequencies for signals. The European system, Wolfowitz reportedly cautioned, could interfere with that. But Gantelet questions that claim.

"We consider all the technical aspects to have already been dealt with or easy to overcome," he said.

"We think it's mainly now a political decision."

"One advantage of *Galileo* is that it will be

better than the current GPS system, and it would arrive on the market before the new generation of American system," said Gantelet.

(Source: Wired, January 17, 2002, <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/>)

US DISINFORMATION UNIT COMPROMISED BY TRUTH

The US is closing down an information unit of the Department of Defense which was set up to project a favourable view of US military activity abroad and influence public opinion.

The move follows reports in the media that the controversial Office of Strategic Influence might start planting false stories among foreign journalists and spreading disinformation.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said such criticisms were "off the mark", but they were so damaging that the unit's ability to function effectively had been irreparably compromised. The Office was created following the September 11 attacks on America, as part of efforts to combat international terrorism.

Meantime, President Bush has pledged that his administration would tell the American people the truth about its foreign policy. Maybe the unit is still at work?

(Sources: AFP, February 21, 2002; BBC News, Feb 26, 2002, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>)



NEW STUDY LINKS HORMONE THERAPY TO BREAST CANCER

The suspected breast cancer risk associated with postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy may involve a type of tumour that can be hard to detect, according to a report from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the Group Health Cooperative and the University of Washington in Seattle, USA.

The study looked at 705 women between the ages of fifty and seventy-four. It found that the incidence of all types of breast cancer in the group was increased by 60 to 85 per cent by hormone replacement therapy and that long-term users had a higher risk for lobular breast cancer.

"We found an elevated risk of invasive breast cancer among postmenopausal women who were long-term, recent users of oral estrogen, either alone or in combination with progestin," said the study report, just published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (vol. 287).

"These results are generally consistent with the results from other case-control and cohort studies and [a] recent collaborative analysis," it added.

"Two prior studies have observed a two- to threefold increased risk of lobular breast cancer associated with current combination therapy, and we found similarly large risks of lobular cancer associated with current combination therapy and longer duration of all formulations of hormone replacement therapy," it said.

(Source: Reuters, February 11, 2002)

US SHADOW GOVERNMENT BUNKERS DOWN IN SECRET

A shadow government has been in place and living underground since September 11, 2001, in case Washington is wiped out by a nuclear attack by terrorists, the White House confirmed on March 1st.

About 100 senior civil servants were dispatched to two secret locations in the eastern United States after September 11 to ensure continuity of government in the event that Washington was attacked. Teams have remained there on a rotational basis ever since.

The publicly disclosed element was that Vice-President Dick Cheney was reputedly in a "secure, undisclosed location", meeting President George Bush only rarely.

It turns out that the Cheney plan was only part of a "Continuity of Operations Plan" to keep the country running in any conceivable contingency. The plan was drawn up nearly half a century ago, during the Eisenhower administration, when the United States was guarding against the possibility of a nuclear strike from the Soviet Union. It was never activated until President George W. Bush ordered it to be put into operation, hours after the attacks on New York, Washington and over Pennsylvania.

The existence of the shadow government was reported by the *Washington Post* yesterday after the paper did a deal with the administration that it would not disclose the location of the sites.

(Source: The Guardian, March 2, 2002)

NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERY EXPECTED TO COLLAPSE BY 2010

The entire North Atlantic is being so severely overfished that it may completely collapse by 2010, reveals the first comprehensive survey of the entire ocean's fishery.

North Atlantic catches have fallen by half since 1950, despite a tripling of the effort put into catching the fish. The total number of fish in the ocean has fallen even further, they say, with just one-sixth as many high-quality "table fish" like cod and tuna as there were in 1900. Fish prices have risen sixfold in real terms in 50 years.

The shortage of table fish has forced a switch to other species.

"The jellyfish sandwich is not a metaphor: jellyfish is being exported from the US," says Daniel Pauly at the University of British Columbia, Canada. "In the Gulf of Maine, people were catching cod a few decades ago. Now they're catching sea cucumber. By earlier standards, these things are repulsive," he says.

The only hope for the fishery is to drastically limit fishing—for instance, by declaring large portions of the ocean off limits and at the same time reducing the number of fishing ships. Piecemeal efforts to protect certain fisheries have only caused the fishing fleet to overfish somewhere else, such as West Africa.

(Source: New Scientist, February 18, 2002, <http://www.newscientist.com>)

NO GULF WAR SYNDROME FOR VACCINE-FREE FRENCH FORCES

The US Congress has heard that French forces who served in the Gulf War were not given the vaccines and anti-biological warfare measures administered to British and American veterans and are free from the Gulf War syndrome (GWS) illnesses that plague UK and US personnel.

Evidence to the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations shows that the effort made to protect service personnel from biological and chemical weapons is most likely to have damaged their health.

The French personnel were given protective suits, but not the cocktail of drugs that British and American forces took. Only 140 of the 25,000 French veterans have reported illnesses related to Gulf War service, compared with more than 5,000 of the 52,000 British troops deployed and 137,862 of the 697,000 US personnel.



"A two-year research project claims television is the most glib form of media, or some such garbage."

Unlike American and British forces, the French used bottled water and did not use organophosphorous pesticides, now known to be very dangerous to humans.

Fourteen inoculations were given to British troops. In addition, their immune systems were tested with the first-ever issue of nerve agent pre-treatment tablets as an antidote against chemical weapons, and with the use of pesticides including organophosphates to prevent fly-borne diseases. US and British forces were exposed to 33 toxins in total.

(Sources: The Guardian, The Sydney Morning Herald, February 13, 2002)

STORM OVER GHOSTWRITERS PAID BY DRUG COMPANIES

Scientists are accepting large sums of money from drug companies to put their names to articles they have not written, endorsing new medicines—a growing practice which some fear is putting scientific integrity in jeopardy.

Ghostwriting has become widespread in such areas of medicine as cardiology and psychiatry, where drugs play a major role in treatment. Senior doctors, inevitably very busy, have become willing to "author" papers written for them by ghostwriters paid by drug companies.

Originally, ghostwriting was confined to medical journal supplements sponsored by the industry, but it can now be found in all the major journals in relevant fields. In some cases, it is alleged, the scientists named as authors will not even have seen the raw data they are writing about—only tables compiled by company employees.

The doctors, who might give a talk based on the paper to an audience of other doctors at a drug company-sponsored symposium, receive substantial sums of money. Fuller Torrey of the Stanley Foundation Research Programs in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, found in a survey that British psychiatrists were paid around US\$2,000 a time for symposium talks, plus airfares and hotel accommodation.

Dr David Healy, a psychopharmacologist from north Wales who had unprecedented access to the data that the companies keep in their archives, said: "It may well be that 50 per cent of the articles on drugs in the major journals across all areas of medicine are not written in a way that the average person in the street expects them to be authored."

(Source: The Guardian, February 7, 2002)

KEY WITNESS IN WAR CRIMES CASE AGAINST ARIEL SHARON KILLED BY CAR BOMB IN BEIRUT

On the day after he reaffirmed his intention to testify in court to first-hand knowledge of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's war crimes, Elie Hobeika was blown to bits. A huge, remotely detonated bomb killed Hobeika and his three bodyguards and started fires in the Hazmiyeh district of Beirut, Lebanon. A statement from a previously unknown group, "Lebanese for a Free and Independent Lebanon", took responsibility for the January 24 bombing. No one believed it for a minute.

What made Hobeika, who shared with Sharon a virulent hatred of the Palestinians, such a danger to his former patron and boss? Elie Hobeika was the Commander of the Lebanese Forces during Lebanon's civil war and at the time of Israel's massive invasion of that country in 1982. The Lebanese Forces (LF) were a fascist militia, directly armed and supported by Israel—and the USA. In June 1982, the Israeli military (IDF), with total backing from the USA, launched a massive invasion of Lebanon. The objectives of the invasion were to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), then mainly based in Lebanon, and install a puppet government in Beirut.

For the entire summer of that year, the IDF mercilessly bombed the Lebanese capital, killing more than 20,000 people, the vast majority civilians. In September 1982, a ceasefire agreement was forced upon the Lebanese and Palestinians resisting the assault. Palestinian refugees made up more than 10 per cent of Lebanon's population of three million at the time. Under the agreement, PLO military forces would be evacuated to Tunisia. In return, the safety and security of the Palestinian refugee camps would be guaranteed. The security guarantee was critical, because it was well known to all parties that the Lebanese Forces and other fascist militias would butcher the now-unprotected camps if given half a chance.

By September 16, with the PLO fighters gone, the IDF had completely surrounded the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in west Beirut. The remaining inhabitants of the camps were nearly all women, children and elderly men. However, Israel's then Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, along with the Israeli commanders on the ground, declared that they believed there were still PLO fighters hiding in the camps. Using this pretext, the Israelis allowed the Hobeika-commanded LF to enter the Palestinian refugee camps to "clean up".

A weekend of unimaginable horror ensued. The LF first went door to door, forcing the terrified inhabitants out into the streets and dividing them into groups. For the next 36 hours, the LF raped, tortured and slaughtered, wiping out nearly the entire population of more than 2,000 Palestinians and Lebanese living in Sabra and Shatila. Israeli officers and cabinet ministers, including Ariel Sharon—who, as Defence Minister, bore overall responsibility for the occupation of Lebanon—were repeatedly informed of what was going on. When the Israelis finally instructed Hobeika to pull the LF forces out late on September 17, the LF asked for, and received, a one-day extension to "finish their work". Once the hideous images of the Sabra and Shatila massacre were flashed around the world, the sense of anger and revulsion was so great that even Israel had to set up an official commission of inquiry the following year. The Kahan Commission found Sharon "indirectly responsible" for the massacre. He was forced to resign as Defence Minister, although not from the Israeli cabinet.

Sharon wants the world to forget his bloodstained history. And the United States government, which was more than complicit in Lebanon (after all, the US supplied the planes, tanks and guns for the 1982 invasion), has developed total amnesia on the subject. The US is only interested in prosecuting leaders of other countries as "war criminals" when they don't follow Washington's script. But the world, and particularly the survivors of the massacre, have not forgotten Sabra and Shatila. Several Palestinian survivors and family members of victims have brought a criminal case against Sharon in Belgium.

Last year, Belgium passed a law allowing its courts to hear cases of alleged crimes against humanity, wherever they are or were committed.

On January 23, Hobeika, who was directly in touch with Sharon and other Israeli officers throughout the 1982 massacre, affirmed that he would go to Brussels to testify in the case. The next day, he was dead.

(Source: Richard Becker, Workers World Service, February 7, 2002, website <http://www.workers.org>)

EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES ON SEPTEMBER 11 EVENTS

German Intelligence Experts Warn of Disinformation

Eckehardt Werthebach, former president of Germany's domestic intelligence service, Verfassungsschutz, has told Agence France-Presse that "the deathly precision" and "the magnitude of planning" behind the attacks of September 11 would have needed "years of planning". Many people would have been involved in the planning of such an operation, and Werthebach pointed to the absence of leaks as further indication that the attacks were "state-organised actions".

Andreas von Bülow served on the parliamentary commission which oversees the three branches of the German secret service while a member of the Bundestag (German Parliament) from 1969 to 1994, and wrote a book titled *Im Namen des Staates* ("In the Name of the State") on the criminal activities of secret services, including the CIA. Von Bülow told AFP he believes that the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, is behind the September 11 terror attacks. These attacks, he said, were carried out to turn public opinion against the Arabs and boost military and security spending.

The architectural-level planners use corrupt "guns for hire" such as Abu Nidal (the Palestinian terrorist whom von Bülow called "an instrument of Mossad"), high-ranking Stasi (former East German secret service) operatives, or agents who organise terror attacks using dedicated people (for example, Palestinian and Arab "freedom fighters").

The terrorists who actually commit the crimes are what von Bülow calls "the working level", such as the 19 Arabs who allegedly hijacked the planes on September 11. "The working level is part of the deception," he said.

"Ninety-five per cent of the work of the intelligence agencies around the world is deception and disinformation," von Bülow said, which is widely propagated in the mainstream media, creating an accepted version of events. "Journalists don't even raise the simplest questions," he said, adding, "those who differ are labelled as crazy."

Both Werthebach and von Bülow said the lack of an open and official investigation, such as congressional hearings, into the events of September 11 was incomprehensible.

A Carpet of Gold—or Bombs—for the Taliban

In a recently published book, *Bin Laden, La Vérité Interdite* ("Bin Laden, The Forbidden Truth"), authors Jean-Charles Brisard and Guillaume Dasquié charge that the US government's primary objective in Afghanistan was to consolidate the position of the Taliban regime in order to obtain access to the oil and gas reserves of Central Asia.

Until August 2001, the US government saw the Taliban regime "as a source of stability in Central Asia that would enable the construction of an oil pipeline across Central Asia" from the rich oilfields in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Indian Ocean, they say.

"The oil and gas reserves of Central Asia have been controlled by Russia. The Bush government wanted to change all that," the book says. When the Taliban refused to accept US conditions, "this rationale of energy security changed into a military one".

"The Americans indicated to us that in case the Taliban does not behave and in case Pakistan also doesn't help us to influence the Taliban, then the United States would be left with no option but to take an overt action against Afghanistan," said Niaz Naik, a former foreign minister of Pakistan, who attended the meetings.

On French television, Naik said that, during the "6 + 2" meeting in Berlin in July, the discussions turned around "...the formation of a government of national unity. If the Taliban had accepted this coalition, they would have immediately received international economic aid."

"And the pipelines from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan would have come," he added.

Naik also claimed that Tom Simons, the US representative at these meetings, openly threatened the Taliban and Pakistan. "Simons said, 'Either the Taliban behave as they ought to, or Pakistan convinces them to do so, or we will use another option'. The words Simons used were 'a military operation'," Naik said.

"At one moment during the negotiations, the US representatives told the Taliban, 'Either you accept our offer of a carpet of gold, or we bury you under a carpet of bombs'," Brisard said in an interview in Paris.

(Sources: Tagesspiegel, Berlin, January 13, 2002, via Conspiracy Planet, <http://www.conspiracyplanet.com>, and Rumor Mills, <http://www.rumormillnews.net>)

DID US AGENT WARN CANADA OF SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS?

The admission that the death of a Canadian diplomat in Moscow was murder may lend credence to the fantastic story arising from an extradition case in Toronto, in which a man claiming to be a US Naval Intelligence officer says he warned the RCMP and CSIS of the September 11 attacks, months in advance.

Delmart Edward Vreeland claims he travelled to Moscow in Fall 2000 to obtain military documents regarding Russian countermeasures to US antimissile defence. His purpose was to see that they got into the hands of CSIS and to fool Ottawa into believing it was a Canadian discovery, so Canada and other allies might be inclined to drop their objections to "Star Wars".

His contact was a "systems analyst", Marc Bastien, said to be a CSIS agent working out of the embassy. Vreeland says he sensed something fishy with a Russian go-between and handed over a dummy bag before travelling to Toronto, where he was arrested on December 6 on an immigration warrant.

Only days after Vreeland's arrest by Toronto police, Bastien was found dead in Moscow. Though he was only 35, the death was attributed to "natural causes". The body was returned to Canada for autopsy. Sources with the Mounties have since confirmed that Bastien indeed was murdered.

Among the Russian documents Vreeland says he retrieved was one describing impending terrorist attacks in the United States, naming Osama bin Laden as an agent and the World Trade Center and the Pentagon as likely targets. Vreeland, with his lawyer Paul Slansky, took the information to both CSIS and the RCMP last summer, but he was blown off as a crank.

The US Navy claims that Vreeland was discharged in the mid-1980s, having failed boot camp, but there is evidence to suggest the military is altering his service record. For example, in a phone conversation recorded from jail in August 2001—before, Vreeland contends, his entire record could be wiped from the system—he is clearly told by a petty officer at a US naval base that computer files confirm his rank as lieutenant—an impossibility if he'd dropped out of boot camp.

(Source: Frank magazine, Canada, October 16, 2001, <http://www.frankmag.net>; for updates on Vreeland's case, visit Mike Ruppert's website, <http://www.copvcia.com>.)

UK CARS TO BE FITTED WITH SATELLITE TRACKING METERS

All cars in the UK will be fitted with a "Big Brother" satellite tracking meter to charge drivers up to 45 pence a mile for every journey taken, under radical plans to slash congestion on British roads. The scheme, proposed by the government's independent transport advisers, would see drivers handed monthly bills charging them for every single journey.

The Commission for Integrated Transport will recommend using existing GPS satellites to track vehicles via electronic "black boxes" fixed to the dashboard of all vehicles.

The information recording the movements of motorists would be beamed back to computers at the various highway authorities or to a private company contracted to the government—but with strict controls to protect privacy.

Prices would be set and adjusted periodically according to levels of congestion. (Source: The Observer, February 24, 2002)

MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF MICROBIOLOGISTS

In the four-month period from November 12, 2001 through February 11, 2002, seven world-class microbiologists in different parts of the world were reported dead. Six died of "unnatural" causes, while the cause of the seventh's death is questionable.

In the six weeks prior to November 12, two additional foreign microbiologists were reported dead. Some believe there were as many as five more microbiologists killed during the period, bringing the total to as high as fourteen. These two to seven additional deaths, however, are not the focus of this story. This same period also saw the deaths of three persons involved in medical research or public health:

- On November 12, Benito Que, 52, was found comatose in the street near the laboratory where he worked at the University of Miami Medical School. He died on December 6.

- On November 16, Don C. Wiley, 57, vanished and his abandoned rental car was found on the Hernando de Soto Bridge outside Memphis, Tennessee. His body was found on December 20.

- On November 23, Vladimir Pasechnik, 64, was found dead in Wiltshire, England, not far from his home.

- On December 10, Robert Schwartz, 57, was found murdered in his rural home in

Loudoun County, Virginia.

- On December 11, Set Van Nguyen, 44, was found dead in the airlock entrance to a walk-in refrigerator in the laboratory where he worked in Victoria, Australia.

- On February 8, Vladimir Korshunov, 56, was found dead on a Moscow street.

- On February 11, Ian Langford, 40, was found dead in his home in Norwich, England.

Prior to these deaths, on October 4 a commercial jetliner travelling from Israel to Novosibirsk, Siberia, was shot down over the Black Sea by an "errant" Ukrainian surface-to-air missile, killing all on board. The missile was over 100 miles off course.

Despite early news stories reporting it as a charter flight, Air Sibir 1812 was a regularly scheduled flight.

According to several press reports, the plane is believed to have had as many as five passengers who were microbiologists.

At the time of the Black Sea crash, Israeli journalists had been sounding the alarm that two Israeli microbiologists had recently been murdered, allegedly by terrorists.

(Source: From The Wilderness, February 28, 2002, <http://www.copvicia.com>)

MAI RISES FROM THE GRAVE

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment, which many had thought dead and buried, has now risen from the grave. Dubbed the "corporations' bill of rights", the MAI was a plan hatched in

secret and kept under wraps even from the parliaments of the rich nations which were negotiating it.

When its draft text was leaked to a non-government organisation in early 1997, it became the subject of a worldwide, and very angry, campaign. Given its backroom origins, it was afraid of the sunlight—and the campaign was eventually enough to force those behind it in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to announce in late 1998 that it was being put down.

From the moment it was laid to rest, however, its architects in the corporate boardrooms and cabinets of the US and Europe were planning its resurrection—and, sure enough, some of its body parts have since made their way into International Monetary Fund policy, the terms of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation trade agreements.

But its biggest step back came on November 14, 2001 when, after days of tense negotiations in the World Trade Organization's Qatar ministerial meeting, the WTO announced that it would launch talks on the terms of an eventual international agreement on investment.

With negotiations due to start in 2002, the MAI is well and truly back.

[Note: An in-depth article on the MAI was published in NEXUS Magazine, volume 5, numbers 3 and 4. Ed.]

(Source: By Sean Healy, ZNet, December 15, 2001, <http://www.zmag.org>)



"You've noticed lately the increasing levels of food they're putting into the chemical additives?"